

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 219643
ORIGIN EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAIR, KS

SUBJECT:CIVAIR: FTL CATTLE CHARTERS

1. FLYING TIGER (FTL) HAS INFORMED DEPARTMENT THAT KOREAN GOVERNMENT IS RESTRICTING ITS OPERATIONAL FLEXIBILITY, SPECIFICALLY AS IT RELATES TO FTL'S CATTLE CHARTERS TO PUSAN. AFTER CHARTER FLIGHT TO PUSAN, FTL'S PRACTICE IS TO FERRY AIRCRAFT TO SEOUL AND THEN OPERATE IT FROM SEOUL TO US AS A SCHEDULED FLIGHT. ALTHOUGH FTL SAYS IT HAS BEEN OPERATING IN THIS MANNER FOR YEARS, IT HAS NOW BEEN TOLD BY KOREAN AUTHORITIES THAT THE BILATERAL AIR TRANSPORT AGREEMENT DOES NOT PERMIT US FLIGHTS TO START AT SEOUL.

2. EMBASSY IS REQUESTED TO INVESTIGATE FTL REPORT AND, IF CORRECT, EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT TO GOK THAT AGREEMENT
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PAGE 02 STATE 219643

DOES NOT PROHIBIT THIS TYPE OF SERVICE. SCHEDULE IN BILATERAL READS THAT US AIRLINES WILL BE ENTITLED TO OPERATE AIR ROUTES "IN BOTH DIRECTIONS" AND 1971 UNDERSTANDING PROVIDES "NEITHER GOVERNMENT MAY UNILATERALLY RESTRICT AIRLINE OR AIRLINES OF THE GOVERNMENT WITH RESPECT TO SCHEDULING." IN ADDITION, EMBASSY SHOULD POINT OUT THAT USG INFORMED KAL OPERATES IDENTICAL

CATTLE CHARTER SERVICE FROM MOSES LAKE AND FERRIES AIR-

CRAFT TO SEOUL FOR SCHEDULED FLIGHT. RESTRICTION ON
US AIRLINE WOULD BE DISCRIMINATORY IN FAVOR OF KAL AS US
AIRLINE WOULD THEN NOT HAVE EQUAL ACCESS TO MARKET.

3. DEPARTMENT SUSPECTS RESTRICTION ON FTL MAY BE
PRE-NEGOTIATION PLOY BY KOREAN GOVERNMENT. IF THIS APPEARS
TO BE THE CASE, EMBASSY SHOULD MAKE CLEAR TO GOK
THIS ACTION PLUS OTHER EXISTING HARASSMENTS ARE SUCH
THAT,IF THE PRESENT PROBLEMS REMAIN AND/OR NEW ONES ARRIVE,
IT WILL CAST DOUBTS ON WHETHER OR NOT TALKS CAN BE
FRUITFULLY PURSUED. CHRISTOPHER

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